

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 12-13, 16-20, and 22-23 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 12, and 19 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 11, 14-15, and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 12-13, 16-20, and 22-23 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 12-13, 16-18, 20, and 22-23, at paragraph 7 of the Office Action of September 6, 2007 ("the Office Action"), under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over "Microsoft Office XP Inside Out" ("Halvorson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,481 ("Michelman"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

None of the cited references, including Halvorson and Michelman, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, Halvorson and Michelman do not disclose storing a custom search, where the custom search enables execution of a predetermined search, as recited in claim 1. Instead, Halvorson discloses using one or more statistical functions on cell ranges that a user selects to obtain useful information from data, and a Consolidation command to create a summary view. See Halvorson, p. 694. Michelman teaches searching a spreadsheet to locate label references in a formula. Michelman, Abstract. However, neither Michelman nor Halvorson disclose or suggest storing a custom search, where the custom search enables execution of a predetermined search, as recited in claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 4, and 6-9 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, Halvorson and Michelman fail to disclose at least one element of each of claims 2, 4, and 6-9. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, and 6-9 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

None of the cited references, including Halvorson and Michelman, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 10. For example, Halvorson and Michelman do not disclose a computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions to receive a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets via a graphical control panel, the graphical control panel comprising a spreadsheet selection area that includes a select all open workbooks selection to

enable a search of all open workbooks, where the selection of the plurality of spreadsheets comprises all open workbooks when the select all open workbooks selection is selected, as recited in claim 10. Instead, Halvorson discloses a workspace file to preserve an arrangement of open workbooks between uses. *See* Halvorson, p. 694. Michelman teaches searching a spreadsheet to locate label references in a formula. Michelman, Abstract. Hence, claim 10 is allowable.

Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 10, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, Halvorson and Michelman fail to disclose at least one element of each of claims 22 and 23. Accordingly, claims 22 and 23 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 10.

None of the cited references, including Halvorson and Michelman, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. For example, Halvorson and Michelman do not disclose a controller that is adapted to display a graphical control panel on a monitor, the graphical control panel comprising a spreadsheet selection area to receive a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets that include desired portions of data, where the spreadsheet selection area comprises a select all open spreadsheets selection to select execution of a predefined search on all open spreadsheets, as recited in claim 12. Instead, Halvorson discloses a workspace file to preserve an arrangement of open workbooks between uses. *See* Halvorson, p. 694. Michelman teaches searching a spreadsheet to locate label references in a formula. Michelman, Abstract. Hence, claim 12 is allowable.

Claims 13, 16-18, and 20 depend from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, Halvorson and Michelman fail to disclose at least one element of each of claims 13, 16-18, and 20. Accordingly, claims 13, 16-18, and 20 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 12.

Claim 19 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 19 at paragraph 8 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Halvorson in view of Michelman, further in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0061193 ("Anson"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 19 depends from claim 12. As explained above, Halvorson and Michelman do not disclose each of the elements of claim 12. Anson does not disclose the elements of claim 12 not disclosed by Halvorson and Michelman. For example, Anson does not disclose a controller that is adapted to display a graphical control panel on a monitor, the graphical control panel comprising a spreadsheet selection area to receive a selection of a plurality of spreadsheets that include desired portions of data, where the spreadsheet selection area comprises a select all open spreadsheets selection to select execution of a predefined search on all open spreadsheets, as recited in claim 12. In contrast to claim 12, Anson teaches filtering a data set to identify lines of interest. Anson, Abstract. Thus, the cited references do not disclose or suggest each and every the element of claim 12, or of claim 19, which depends from claim 12. Hence, claim 19 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.


Attorney Docket No.: 1033-T00505

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


Jeffrey G. Toler, Reg. No. 38,342
Attorney for Applicants
TOLER SCHAFFER, L.L.P.
8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite A201
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5575 (fax)